

## CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

CIA - J. A. CUNNINGHAM Approved For Release 2002/06/18 : CIA-RDP74B00447R000100010019-1

DRAFT: OSA/DDS/44700

102

TOP SECRET

25X1A [REDACTED]

DATE: 27 FEBRUARY 1966

25X1A [REDACTED]  
FROM: DIRECTOR

CAB:

INFO:

ROUTING	
1 D8a	10
2 D8a	11
3 Idea	"
4 DFA	12
5 FD	13
6 DDSYT	14
7	15
8 D/R [REDACTED]	16

PRIORITY	DEFERRED	PRIORITY	INITIALS
	ROUTINE	OPERATIONAL	IMMEDIATE

OSA/1-20

00332

25X1A PRIORITY [REDACTED] INFO [REDACTED] CITE [REDACTED] 25X1A  
 25X1A [REDACTED] IDEALIST [REDACTED] 5414  
 25X1A REF A: [REDACTED] B: [REDACTED] NOT SENT [REDACTED]  
 25X1A FOR [REDACTED] FROM MR. X CUNNINGHAM, ACTING

1. REGARDING YOUR RECOMMENDATION THAT HQS GROUNDING BE LIFTED  
 28 FEB, AND THAT NORMAL OPNS AT [REDACTED] BE RESUMED 1 MARCH, HQS 25X1A  
 CANNOT CONCUR AT THIS TIME FOR FOLL REASONS:

A. AT PRESENT TIME, 27/2200Z, SEARCH PARTY HAS NOT LOCATED  
 SUFFICIENT STRUCTURAL WRECKAGE TO PERMIT ANALYSIS X OF FAILURE  
 CAUSES. AS NOTED REF B, BAD WX IN SEARCH AREA IN FOOTHILLS, WITH  
 VISIBILITY DOWN TO ABOUT 50 FEET, HAS DRastically LIMITED EFFECTIVE  
 SEARCH. PORTIONS OF ENGINE WERE FOUND BEFORE DARK ON 26 FEB, BUT  
 NO SIGN OF WINGS AND FUSELAGE OR TAIL SECTION. SEARCH WILL CONTINUE  
 UNTIL ENOUGH WRECKAGE IS FOUND TO ENABLE X INVESTIGATION BE  
 MEANINGFUL.

## COORDINATING OFFICERS

TOP SECRET

RELEASING OFFICER

GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

REApproved For Release 2002/06/18 : CIA-RDP74B00447R000100010019-1 Copy No. 3

25X1A  
UNIT:  
EXT:  
DATE:  
25X1A

Approved For Release 2002/06/18 : CIA-RDP74B00447R000100010019-1  
J. A. CUNNINGHAM JR.  
OSA DDS&T  
27 FEBRUARY 1966

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

TOP SECRET

ROUTING	
1	10
2	11
3	12
4	13
5	14
6	15
7	16
8	

PRECEDENCE	DEFERRED	PRIORITY	INITIALS
	ROUTINE	OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE	INITIALS

TO: [REDACTED]  
FROM: DIRECTOR  
CCNP:  
INFO:

PAGE TWO

06392

FO

INFO

CITE

25X1A  
25X1A

B. GEN. [REDACTED] LEDFORD AND [REDACTED] WHO VISITED [REDACTED]

AFTER ACCIDENT, LEFT WITH NO FIRM CONCLUSION ABOUT WHAT MAY HAVE CAUSED WHAT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN SOME FORM OF CATASTROPHIC FAILURE. ORIGINAL THOUGHT WAS THAT PILOT MIGHT HAVE BEEN CAUGHT IN JET WASH AFTER REFUELING BREAKOFF, BUT AFTER HIS AND TANKER CREW DEBRIEFING, THIS POSSIBILITY RULED OUT. THEREFORE, NO WAY OF TELLING IF CAUSE OF RIGHT WING FAILURE, APPARENTLY ALL WAY TO WING ROOT, COULD BE COMMON TO REST OF FLEET. 342 WAS OUR OLDEST BIRD, AND HAD SUSTAINED LANDING ACCIDENT [REDACTED] SOME TIME AGO WITH MAJOR STRUCTURAL REPAIR THEREAFTER, SO THIS FACT MUST BE EXAMINED IN EVIDENCE AS WELL.

25X1A

2. PILOT HAD REPORTEDLY REFERRED TO "GUSTS" AND "VIBRATION" OF SOME SORT PRIOR TO ACFT BREAKUP, BUT SINCE HQS HAS NOT HEARD DEBRIEFING AS YET, CAN ONLY ADD THESE ITEMS TO LIST OF UNKNOWNNS AT MOMENT. IN ANY EVENT, FOR US TO RESUME FLIGHTS WITHOUT SOME COORDINATING OFFICERS

RELEASING OFFICER

TOP SECRET

GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

## CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

MSG: J. A. CUNNINGHAM JR.  
 UNIT: OSA/DDS&T  
 EXT:   
 DATE: 27 FEBRUARY 1966

TOP SECRET

ROUTING

1	9
2	10
3	11
4	12
5	13
6	14
7	15
8	16

25X1A <sup>TO</sup>	<span style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; vertical-align: middle;"></span>	FROM: DIRECTOR	INFO:	PAGE THREE	ROUTING
CONF:				DEFERRED	PRIORITY
				ROUTINE	INITIALS
				OPERATIONAL	IMMEDIATE
					INITIALS

06392

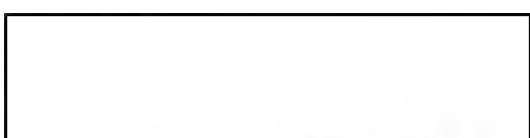
TO INFO CITE

BETTER HANDLE ON POSSIBLE PROBLEM COMMONALITY THAN WE HAVE NOW WOULD APPEAR UNWISE, SINCE ANY ACCIDENT FOR WHATEVER REASON WHERE PILOT MIGHT BE KILLED WOULD LEAD TO SUPPOSITION THAT TWO WERE SOMEHOW CONNECTED.

3. SUGGEST YOUR EXPLANATION TO  AND OTHERS BE 25X1A  
 342  
 IN LOW KEY THAT FURTHER FLIGHTS UNTIL WRECKAGE/LOCATED  
 WOULD NOT BE ADOPTING BEST CONSERVATIVE COURSE. WILL KEEP YOU  
 IN THE LOOP AS DEVELOPMENTS OCCUR, AND WILL DISCUSS WHOLE MATTER  
 WITH GEN. LEDFORD ON HIS RETURN 28 FEB.

END OF MESSAGE

25X1A



JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM JR.

AD/OSA

COORDINATING OFFICERS

TOP SECRET

RELEASING OFFICER

GROUP 1  
 Excluded from automatic  
 downgrading and  
 declassification

AUTHENTICATING OFFICER